



Serial No. 10/064,549

Image 2881
Docket No. RD-28294

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: H.I. Ringermacher et al.

Serial No.: 10/064,549

Filed: July 25, 2002

: Group Art Unit: 2881

: Examiner: C.M. Kalivoda

: Response to Paper No. 021204

For: FLEXIBLE IMAGER AND DIGITAL IMAGING METHOD

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Director of Patents and Trademarks

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In an Office Action dated 02/18/2004, the Examiner restricted the claims of the present application into two groups: Group I—claims 1-23 and 31-41 and Group II—claims 24-30. Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I, claims 1-23 and 31-41, for prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully submit that, despite the Examiner's contention that the inventions claimed are distinct, the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, because of the closely related nature of the two inventions. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the necessity for a restriction requirement in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Monday, March 08, 2004